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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/508,870	10/04/2000	Yuraki Furuhashi	16869P-00610	4059

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EXAMINER

GILLIGAN, CHRISTOPHER L

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3626

DATE MAILED: 02/02/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/508,870

Applicant(s)

FURUHATA ET AL.

Examiner

Luke Gilligan

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 November 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

Response to Amendment

1. In the amendment filed 11/13/03 in paper number 15, the following has occurred: claims 6 and 7 have been canceled and claims 1-5 have been amended. Now, claims 1-5 are presented for examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Garback, U.S. Patent No. 5,237,499 in view of Taylor et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,899,981.

4. As per claim 1, Garback teaches a schedule management system comprising a plurality of terminal devices interconnected over a line for performing travel expense adjustment processing, wherein at least one of said plurality of terminals serves as a management terminal device which manages schedules of users managed in said system on an external storage apparatus (see Figure 1 and column 2, lines 19-22); each of said plurality of terminal devices other than said management terminal device serves as a schedule inputting terminal having an inputting device for inputting schedule information (see column 4, lines 63-67); said schedule management system comprising: an external storage apparatus for storing schedule information inputted from said inputting device of said schedule inputting terminal (see column 4, lines 63-67 and column 3, lines 10-15) and travel expense adjustment information representative of whether or not travel expense adjustment has been performed (see column 5, lines 40-60 and column 6, line 61 – column 7, line 8); and a computer readable medium including code for

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comparing said travel expense adjustment information and said business trip schedule information with each other to search for unadjusted travel expense information (see column 5, lines 40-60).

5. Garback does not explicitly teach that the travel expense adjustment information is travel expense reimbursement information. Garback also does not explicitly teach code for extracting business trip schedule information based on status and classification data and code for determining whether or not a user of one of the terminals has indicated that the user wishes to reimburse the travel expense information that has not been reimbursed. Taylor teaches a schedule management system for processing travel expense reimbursement information (see column 1, line 66 – column 2, line 2) that includes code for extracting business trip schedule information based on status and classification data (see column 15, line 66 – column 16, line 5), and code for determining whether or not a user of one of the terminals has indicated that the user wishes to reimburse the travel expense information that has not been reimbursed (see column 17, lines 26-33 and column 20, lines 10-20). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art of travel expense management at the time of the invention to incorporate these travel reimbursement features into the system of Garback. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to incorporate these features for the purpose of expediting expense reporting incurred by employees using the system of Garback (see column 1, lines 57-63 of Taylor).

6. As per claim 2, Garback in view of Taylor teach the system of claim 1 as described above. Garback further teaches the travel expense adjustment information includes first information identifying a person for whom the schedule information has been prepared (see column 4, lines 58-62) and second information indicating the date of a business trip, said schedule information including third information identifying a person for whom the schedule

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information has been prepared and fourth information indicating the date of a business trip (see column 3, lines 10-30, column 4, lines 11-18, column 5, lines 40-46, and column 6, lines 18-19).

As noted above, while Garback does not explicitly teach that travel expense adjustment information includes reimbursement information, this feature is obvious in view of Taylor for the same reasons as given above.

7. As per claim 4, Garback teaches a user terminal provided in a schedule management system, the user terminal being one of a plurality of user terminals connected to a LAN, the plurality of user terminals being operable to manage schedules of a plurality of users, said user terminals comprising: an inputting means for inputting business trip schedule information (see column 3, lines 10-15); a schedule information editing means for editing business trip schedule information obtained from said inputting means to information in a form for management on an external storage apparatus, a schedule information storage means for storing the edited schedule information onto said external storage apparatus (see column 3, lines 25-30); a non adjusted travel expense information search means for collating the travel expense adjustment information stored on said external storage apparatus and the business trip schedule information stored on said external storage apparatus with each other to search for non adjusted travel expenses (see column 5, lines 40-60); a schedule and message display/reply means for displaying the business trip schedule information and the unadjusted information on a screen of the terminal (see column 5, lines 1-3 and lines 34-40); display means for displaying a query to a user as to whether or not the non-adjusted information is to be adjusted (see column 5, lines 1-3 and column 6, lines 7-8); a travel expense adjustment information inputting means for inputting travel expense adjustment information when non-adjusted travel expenses are detected, a travel expense adjustment editing means for editing the travel expense adjustment information obtained from said reimbursement information inputting means to information in a

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record form or a file for transmission (see column 5, lines 40-60 and column 6, line 61 – column 7, line 8).

8. Garback does not explicitly teach that the travel expense adjustment information is travel expense reimbursement information. Garback also does not explicitly teach searching means for searching for business trip schedule information based on status and classification data and determining whether or not a user of one of the terminals has indicated that the user wishes to reimburse the travel expense information that has not been reimbursed. Taylor teaches a schedule management system for processing travel expense reimbursement information (see column 1, line 66 – column 2, line 2) that includes searching means for searching for business trip schedule information based on status and classification data (see column 15, line 66 – column 16, line 5), determining whether or not a user of one of the terminals has indicated that the user wishes to reimburse the travel expense information that has not been reimbursed (see column 17, lines 26-33 and column 20, lines 10-20). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art of travel expense management at the time of the invention to incorporate these travel reimbursement features into the system of Garback. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to incorporate these features for the purpose of expediting expense reporting incurred by employees using the system of Garback (see column 1, lines 57-63 of Taylor).

9. As per claim 5, Garback in view of Taylor teach the system of claim 4 as described above. Garback further teaches searching for the travel expense adjustment information stored on said external storage means based on information identifying a person or information identifying a trip destination (see column 4, lines 15-20, column 4, lines 58-62, column 5, lines 40-60, and column 6, lines 20-27), and inputting travel expense adjustment information based on the travel expense adjustment information in the past (see column 10, lines 26-29 and

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column 2, lines 30-55). As noted above, while Garback does not explicitly teach that travel expense adjustment information includes reimbursement information, this feature is obvious in view of Taylor for the same reasons as given above.

10. Claims are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Garback, U.S. Patent No. 5,237,499 in view of Taylor et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,899,981 and further in view of Whitesage, U.S. Patent No. 5,191,523.

11. As per claim 3, Garback in view of Taylor teach the system of claim 2 as described above. Garback further teaches the non-adjusted travel expense adjustment search means searches for a person identification information in the travel expense adjustment information that coincides with the person identification information in the schedule information (see column 5, lines 40-60); and further searches for the schedule information based on the time and date of the travel request (see column 5, lines 40-60 and column 6, lines 28-30). Garback does not explicitly teach searching for a scheduled outwork date that has passed. Whitesage teaches the searching and retrieval of date based on a date that has passed (see column 7, lines 20-40). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art of travel expense management at the time of the invention to add this searching feature to the system of Garback. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to incorporate this feature for the purpose of providing later analysis such as producing accurate cost information for comparison purposes (see column 1, lines 11-12 and column 7, lines 35-36 of Whitesage). Additionally, and as noted above, while Garback does not explicitly teach that travel expense adjustment information includes reimbursement information, this feature is obvious in view of Taylor for the same reasons as given above.

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Response to Arguments


12. In the remarks filed 11/13/03 in paper number 15, Applicant argues in substance that Garback does not teach a system that relates to travel expenses that have not been reimbursed. In response to Applicant's argument, the Examiner has applied a new grounds of rejection in view of the Taylor reference as detailed above to teach the limitations related to travel expense reimbursement. Therefore, this argument is moot in view of the new grounds of rejection.


Conclusion

13. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Luke Gilligan whose telephone number is (703) 308-6104. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8am-5:30pm.

14. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph Thomas can be reached on (703) 305-9588. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9326.

15. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1113.


CLG
1/23/04


JOSEPH THOMAS
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